

CDPR Response – Comment Letter 21

21-1 CDPR thanks you for your support for general principles of the General Plan (except for proposed camping).

21-2 Please see Master Responses 1, 2, & 3. The General Plan only proposes to allow motor vehicles to access an existing easement road (currently used by the easement holder for vehicles) to a small parking lot located within the Park or other staging areas on the Park's perimeter. The parking lot locations were chosen at sites that would require minimal grading to blend with the topography.

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park GP/EIR
Comment Letter 21

Tina Robinson, Environmental Coordinator
California Department of Parks and Recreation
Southern Service Center
8885 Rio San Diego Drive, Suite 270
San Diego, CA 92108
enviro@parks.ca.gov

Dear Ms. Robinson:

21-1

I am writing this email in regards to the SANTA SUSANNA PASS STATE HISTORIC PARK GENERAL PLAN. I would like to congratulate you on an excellent EIR.

I have been hiking and mountain biking this area for over 20 years. I know and love it quite well. I think the general principles in your plan address the importance of preservation for this area.

21-2

I would like to go on record and opposing any significant development within this park. It is a relatively small area and restricting access to walking in, biking in, or riding horses within the park would keep pressure to the environment to a minimum. Any development should only serve to educate and protect this wonderful resource.

Specifically, I would strongly urge the California Department of Parks and Recreation to adopt the following philosophies as part of this General Plan:

1. NO ROAD DEVELOPMENT within the Santa Susana State Historical Park
2. NO CAMPING

I look forward to hearing your position regarding these matters.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ivy J. Shuman, Jr.
9708 Farralone Avenue
Chatsworth, CA 91311
ijsjr@earthlink.net

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Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park GP/EIR
Comment Letter 21

By e-mail

Dear Ms. Robinson,

I am taking a moment late in the week to write an email to again urge you to
**STOP ANY ROAD DEVELOPMENT AND CAMPING FROM THE GENERAL
PLAN FOR SANTA SUSANA STATE HISTORICAL PARK.**

21-1
(cont'd)

I took two mountain bicycle rides in the Park this week. It reminded me of the fragile nature of this area. Those of us who mountain bike, hike, and ride horses through the Park are aware of the true treasure we have in this highly urbanized Los Angeles area. It cannot take the pressure of general camping.

Please help us keep this area as wild as possible, and protect the wonderful historical significance of Santa Susana State Historical Park.

Sincerely,

Ivy Shuman
9708 Farralone Avenue
Chatsworth, CA 91311

CDPR Response – Comment Letter 22

22-1 Please see Master Response 2.

22-2 Please see Master Responses 1, & 5.

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park GP/EIR
Comment Letter 22

Dear Ms. Robinson,

I recently heard that the California Department of Parks and Recreation is considering putting campgrounds, restrooms, and kiosks in the Santa Susanna Pass State Historic Park. My home is located at 22870 Trigger Street, and is adjacent to this park.

The proposal of putting overnight campgrounds is a really BAD idea.

Let me start off by saying this. I am not one of those people who simply wants to keep people away from where I live. In fact, I see many hikers, horseback riders, and mountain bikers enjoying the trails that traverse the parkland, and am glad the park is there for people to enjoy. I built my home here BECAUSE I enjoy the outdoors, I enjoy the park, and I have no issue with others also enjoying it.

The problem is the overnight camping. People associate campfires with camping. As an avid camper, I can tell you, NO ONE wants to camp without a campfire. It's part of the camping experience. Unfortunately, this entire area is considered a high fire hazard zone, and most of my neighbors are unable to secure fire insurance except through the California Fair Plan, and pay very high premiums for fire insurance. Even if campfires were prohibited, people would still make them anyway. Unless you plan on staffing the park FULL TIME, there is no way you will be able to prevent people from making campfires. There is also the issue of cooking stoves, and gas powered lanterns, all of which will lead to an increased risk of fire in an area that is known for being a high fire risk to begin with.

In 2005, the entire park went up in flames, and many of us had flames right up to our property lines. The Los Angeles Fire Department did an excellent job saving our homes, but at times, it was a close battle, and the fire almost won. I wonder, has anyone contacted the Fire Departments in the areas that will be affected by this to get their opinion on the matter? I can guarantee they will NOT think overnight camping is a good idea.

The second issue is the animals that live in the park itself. There are numerous packs of coyotes, a mountain lion, several bobcats, just to name a few. Putting a campground in the middle of their home will undoubtedly lead to problems,

I am not opposed to the idea of putting a restroom or two in, and in fact, I think that maybe a good idea. Unfortunately, I suspect they would be vandalized, or covered in graffiti fairly quickly.

Often, people think that in doing something they are improving it. That is NOT the case here. Please leave the park alone, as it is, or do a minimal improvement, like adding a restroom. Any more will lead to disastrous results. My guess is that if you allow overnight camping, a lot of funds will be spent to

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Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park GP/EIR
Comment Letter 22

22-2
(cont'd)

make that happen, and the first time a fire breaks out, (because one will eventually), the campground will be closed, and the money wasted.

Invest that money by purchasing additional lands and increasing the size of the park. Not by making irresponsible "improvements" to it.

Thank you.

Edward Conna
22870 Trigger St.
Chatsworth, CA 91311

CDPR Response – Comment Letter 23

23-1 Please see Master Responses 1, 2, 3, & 5

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park GP/EIR
Comment Letter 23

By e-mail:

Dear Tina,

I am writing in regards to the proposed Santa Susana Park plan that is currently under consideration. I have been a homeowner here at Rockpointe, the adjacent property, for over 10 years and I am adamantly opposed to this park.

In recent years we have seen a significant increase in the number of problems and petty crimes that occur in the hills where this park is planned. Delinquents who come and vandalize, fight, drink and start fires are increasing in number and I believe this park would only invite more of the same. This is a great neighborhood with families and children who will be even more at risk if this park is built.

Even now there is rarely a park ranger around to stop these activities and the LAPD will not go onto state property to help unless there is an immediate danger to public safety. This park is simply a bad idea given the surroundings and the potential to invite more trouble to this community.

With great concern,

Dan Dockry
Rockpointe Homeowners Assoc., Director
Homeowner
22544-3 Jeffrey Mark Court
Chatsworth, CA 91311

- 24-1** Thank you for your support for the General Plan. CDPR believes that you are correct and that the Park will serve as an asset not only for statewide users but for the adjacent property owners as well. CDPR hopes to utilize volunteers from the surrounding communities to assist in Park interpretation and information.

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park GP/EIR
Comment Letter 24

By e-mail:

24

As with anything new and when a few folks get it in their bonnet that there will be vandals and crime, they get others worried. They then start petitions and away we go. I and friends have been running and hiking in this area for over 30 years. The "bad" people have been at a minimum. They will be found anywhere. The existing parks have vandalism as do all public and private places. I feel that the public out cry is over hyped. I know many of the folks in that area and I have for several years removed graffiti from the area and participated in park cleanups. Lets go ahead and put in a nice park with good control and I am sure that the area will be well used and problems will be at a minimum. Of course, if one or two things happen the nay sayers will say,"I told you so". Well, so what. The rest of us will enjoy the area and it will be a wonderful addition to the community of Chatsworth.

Let's get on with the program!

Jack

John Perrodin
10338 Oso Ave.
Chatsworth, CA 91311

CDPR Response – Comment Letter 25

25-1 Please see Master Response 2

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park GP/EIR
Comment Letter 25

By e-mail:

Re: Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park Comments:

I am deeply opposed to permitting any form of campfires in this park. I understand that you feel having campfires in pits made of metal and concrete with nearby brush clearance would mitigate/eliminate fire exposure.

Please let me quote the Department of Parks and Recreation online brochure on this Park:

"perfect habitat for the abundant coastal sage scrub, chaparral and annual grasses among smaller areas of oak and riparian woodlands and riparian scrub." Note the words ABUNDANT, AND GRASSES.

1. It takes very little to ignite this type of terrain: a stray spark from a campfire - even one in concrete and metal would do so. The Los Olivos fire is now six weeks old. This \$66.7 million dollar; 95,000 acre fire was ignited by sparks from equipment.
2. Chatsworth is an area that habitually has strong winds, dry conditions, and intense heat. It will take very little for a spark to stray. Chatsworth is not rural like Los Olivos; it is densely populated, as is the adjoining Simi Valley. You cannot, in good conscience, put the population at even the slightest risk of fire from camping.
3. In red flag conditions, parks are often closed. However, transients and others often ignore closures and enter. Several wildfires have started with illegal campfires. Remember the park ranger who was burning love letters? A knowledgeable individual is capable of judgment errors - it's inevitable that a "regular" person will do so.
4. A single on-site person cannot effectively monitor 670 acres. That is no deterrent.
5. This park is more than just 670 acres. It is, to quote your own website, "an important wildlife corridor that connects the San Gabriel, Santa Susana and Santa Monica Mountain ranges." Our wildlife have been pushed from their natural habitats as development expands. Don't risk their sliver of land.

I understand that some sort of compromise needs to be made; the public is entitled to access to their land. I ask that you limit it to hiking trails and restrooms. Careless cigarette smoking is a significant risk in itself. Don't geometrically compound that risk by allowing 75 campsites to be built.

Cheryl High
9446 Hanna Avenue
26-year Chatsworth Resident

CDPR Response – Comment Letter 26

26-1 Please see Master Responses 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park GP/EIR
Comment Letter 26

*By e-mail from
Penny Cook
10100 Larwin Ave. #2
Chatsworth, CA 91311*

26-1

The States plans to develop the Santa Suzanna Park involve using the South Chatsworth Park as entrance to the park. This means there will be an intolerable increase in traffic through Rockpointe Homeowners Association. It will also mean an increase in gang activity, crime and drug activity. Also, the fire danger is intolerable as with so many people gaining access to this wild area. As you should be aware approximately two years ago this area burned down to the Chatsworth Park boarder line and the Rockpointe Homeowners Association borders.

There is no need to further develop this area as there are already in existence plenty of walking and riding trails to provide access to people who wish to use this area. I will also express these views to our State Legislative representatives. Yep -- people here vote!

CDPR Response – Comment Letter 27

27-1 Please see Master Responses 1, 2, & 6

27-2 Please see Master Response 2

27-3 Please see Master Response 5

27-4 Please see Master Response 3

27-5 Please see Master Response 6

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park GP/EIR
Comment Letter 27

By e-mail

SHARON M. DABEK
22560-6 Jeffrey Mark Court
Chatsworth, CA. 91311
818-772-7646, smdabek@yahoo.com

August 17, 2007

Dear Ms. Robinson,

27-1

What I want to see for the Chatsworth Historical State Park is limited development. A visitor center is good with the primary entrance from the city park. No camping, no parking lot on Jeffrey Mark Court. Gate closures after hours. Primary focus on preserving the wildlife and letting them have their space.

I read every word of the EIR. What disturbs me the most is that your mission statement is directly apposed to your plans, the "preferred plan" or all of the plans for that matter. Also many important factors have not been mentioned which is giving the wrong information to all. As you recall we have 600 signatures stating opposition to your plans.

"The South Coast Ecoregion of California has been identified as a "hot-spot," or region habitat destruction when compared to other regions around the earth."

27-2

This is a direct quote from the EIR. I strongly appose any camping in the park for several reasons.

1. Night visitors will impact the wildlife corridor: campers. Many people that visit this park do not have respect for its inhabitants. This is not the park for camping. There is no one to patrol the area at night for illegal camping. I want to see a special effort to preserve the remaining wildlife in the area. I have witnessed joggers with their loose dogs in the park at 5:30 am from my bedroom window having almost encounters with coyotes, as they tend to be nocturnal and travel in packs.
2. Fire danger: I don't want any added risk to an already risky location. We have constant winds all year long. Your studies are inaccurate. You don't mention how and where the park is situated. The park is surrounded by people's homes for the most part.
3. The park needs to operate with constant supervision. This is a growing area (unfortunately); the less subjected to problems in a very fragile and shrinking

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Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park GP/EIR
Comment Letter 27

27-3
(cont'd)

open space area the better. We had an arsonist the beginning of August 2007, that is the first time in 20 years that I saw law enforcement in the park.

“The purpose of Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park is to preserve and explore crucial links, both to California’s past and to dwindling wildlife habitats, while providing visitors with quality recreational and educational experiences along its historic trails.”

27-4

Another issue is the proposed plan of still considering Jeffrey Mark Court as an entrance or having a parking/ restroom facility. I almost think there is malice in this concept. Where is the mention of inability to supervise an area where there are growing misdemeanor crimes? It is a constant invasion to having a secure area to live in. The trash and broken bottles are on the street every day. I have to walk around them so my dog won’t get cut on our walks. I see you mentioned us in Chapter One: page 16. You are not reporting the facts and conditions, as they will impact the future and existing problems. The only time law enforcement will go on State property is if there is major crime.

The report states the population is growing and the park’s attendance is growing. Being a resident of Rockpointe and the fact that I live on Jeffrey Mark Court gives me first hand experience. I see a big change in the amount of people on my street. I can’t believe there was a report stating there will be little impact to traffic with the development of the park. This is not true.

27-5

Once again I write this letter in hopes you will ultimately alter the development of the park to be unique. I want to see the land preserved in a way to provide some nature to be left for the generations to come.

Sincerely,

Sharon Dabek

CDPR Response – Comment Letter 28

28-1 Please see Master Responses 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park GP/EIR
Comment Letter 28

By e-mail

28-1

I and many of the other residents/members of The Rockpointe Homeowners Association are very concerned about the State Historical Park Plan. We are concerned that the campgrounds, additional trails, bathroom and parking facilities, will make our neighborhood much more dangerous. These amenities will bring additional traffic, putting our children at risk. There is no way in which the Rangers can protect the Indian hieroglyphics and other delicate historical items in the hills. There are many teenagers who party at the park now, and after drinking and "pot" smoking spill into our neighborhood to unlawfully use the neighborhood facilities, including swimming pools and showers. When I attended one of the meetings regarding the park, the Ranger indicated that there isn't sufficient monies provided by the State of California, to have Rangers 24/7 to protect us. Perhaps the most important problem is the fire hazard. In recent years, we have had fires that have come to the edge of the cemetery, and to the very edge of our community. Campfires and the normal winds in our area will add to this danger. The entrance being adjacent to Jeffrey Mark Court will create a problem for those owners on Jeffrey Mark Court, and on Larwin Ave. An abundance of cars, campers, motorcycles, camp trailers, and partying teenagers will depreciate our homes as well as put us in danger. There is a park on the location now, leave it alone; anyone who wants to walk in the hills to enjoy the plans, animals, etc can do so, without bringing addition danger to our community. If there is not going to be an abundance of campers, motorcycles, camp trailers and additional traffic and we as a community do not have to worry, why should the State of California spend the money on the park?

Freida Felbinger 22220 James Alan Circle, Unit 1, Chatsworth, CA 91311

CDPR Response – Comment Letter 29

29-1 Please see Master Responses 2, 3, 5, & 6. Please note that Ross Bloom sent the same letter as Fern Bloom with the exception of the highlighted text in the first paragraph. The letter from Ross Bloom is shown.

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park GP/EIR
Comment Letter 29

By e-mail:

29-1

I am a neighbor near the entrance of the future proposed campsites at Andora Avenue in Chatsworth, CA. I am OUTRAGED that a local neighborhood trail near expensive homes would be a consideration for a future overnight camp/park. The fires burning right to the cemetery property line 2 years ago should be enough to stop campgrounds. The winds that are notorious is another reason to be concerned, 30 mph winds can wreak havoc. My wife and I walk the trails early mornings and stomp out campfires that homeless and vagrants leave without regard of property or people.

We have NO policing or sheriffs coming around this trail regularly, and to have them start when this is built is BEYOND belief knowing what our local and state dollars are spent on! The vagrants, pedophiles and homeless in other areas will find this a haven to literally, 'set up tents' to make this a convenient home for them, as well as gang members to penetrate.

On your website you mention how natural this setting is- just think of how UNNATURAL this will become when the above mentioned will find it charming as well. It seems that the foresight is too late after the problem arises and then the laws will take too long to retract this.

PLEASE- if you REALLY care for the benefit of the natural landscape and the FUTURE of this historic area to remain as it does, then DO NOTHING TO CHANGE THIS!

PLEASE TAKE THIS INTO VERY SERIOUS CONSIDERATION.

Sincerely,
Fern Bloom
9936 Valley Circle Blvd.
Chatsworth, CA. 91311

& Ross Bloom

30-1 Please see Master Responses 1, 2, & 3

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park GP/EIR
Comment Letter 30

By e-mail:

30-1

What are you thinking? Have you not heard that we live in a high wind area between the months of October and March. In fact, I can not get homeowners insurance from AAA because according to their map, I am in a high fire area.

Now, in the short time I have lived here, that area has burned 2 times. Both times I was told to prepare to evacuate. These were not small fires, but ones that made the news for days. The wind shifts here regularly and in fact, some firefighters lost their lives in just that very area when the wind shifted. Now you are telling me that you will allow campsites!!???

Please come out here when the wind blows so badly that all but the heaviest patio furniture flies around.

We do not have to thin our trees as the wind knocks the small branches out.

If we sell our home, we have to notify the new buyers about the windy months. I walk in those hills every week, I do not need a campsite, restrooms, or kiosks to enjoy nature and neither does anyone else.

We are residential and there is no parking. If they cannot stop fires from happening, why invite them?

susan frazier
baden ave
chatsworth, ca

CDPR Response Comment Letter 31

31-1 Please see Master Responses 1, 3, & 5

31-2 Please see Master Response 7

31-3 Please see Master Response 5

31-4 Please see Master Response 2

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park GP/EIR
Comment Letter 31

By e-mail:

Dear Ms Robinson,

31-1 I believe Margery Brown has said it all for me. I would like to add or bring to
your attention this fact. There is a large contingent of homeless people living in the
State Park. They come down to use the facilities, restrooms and water at the City
Parks which are called Chatsworth South, and Chatsworth North. They are also
found at times camping in our Homeowner area of Rockpointe, due to the fact we
have approx 60 acres of park like setting of lawns, trees, rocks, etc. In addition
there is drug dealing going on in the State Park. If you develop the park and of
course restrooms are part of the development, I believe you will make it easier for
the homeless to live in the park. Also they have started fires in the past, which then
threatens us and further releases toxins into the air from the Contaminated Santa
Susana Field Lab. I BELIEVE THAT THE SAFETY and WELL BEING OF 5,000
people in the cemetery) AND THE 20,000 PEOPLE WITHIN A 3 MILE RADIUS
OF THE STATE PARK AND SANTA SUSANA FIELD LAB IS OF PRIMARY
IMPORTANCE, AS THE PARK DEVELOPMENT THREATENS EVERYONE.
31-2 Also a State Park this size will never have a Ranger budgeted to Police the Park. If
they do it would probably be at the most 4 hours a day, but that is wishful thinking.
31-3 Please stop the development which puts our lives at more risk.

Hopefully,

Mr. & Mrs. Freedman
10141 Larwin Ave.
Chatsworth, CA 91311

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Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park GP/EIR
Comment Letter 31

By e-mail

August 20, 2007

**Attn: Tina Robinson, Environmental Coordinator
8885 Rio San Diego Dr. #270
San Diego, CA 92108**

Dear Mrs. Robinson:

I would like to comment on the fire risk if this Project is Completed. I remember that old movie Field of Dreams. " If you build it, they will come." That's exactly what we don't want. The more people that are attracted to this area, the greater the fire danger. This is an extreme red flag area, every day of the year. The summers have been mostly in the high 90's and 100's. The winds and gusts have been high here all the time. I have printouts from a weather station showing the last three months the temperature, dew point, humidity, pressure, High winds and gust speeds. Also I have the same print out every 5 minutes on any day you pick. This can be found on the internet. On 2/8/06 a fire started at 118 fry and Rocky Peak Rd. Cause was Radiated-conducted heat from operating equipment. On 6/22/06 a fire started at Boulder Ridge, cause unknown. On 6/24/05 fire started at 118 fry /Topanga Canyon Bl. Heat Source, Cigarette. A couple years ago a fire started in the State Park at Jeffery Mark Court, the street many of my friends live on and almost got our trees in our Condominiums, which would have ignited our homes. To give you an idea how fierce the winds are. About 5 years ago in December, the WINDS TOOK DOWN 51 FULL GROWN TREES IN OUR COMPLEX. We were lucky with the recent Day Fire. Because of the Wind Shift it didn't come this way. We had a Large Fire that started 9/28/05-to 10/6/05. It started at the 118 Freeway in Simi Valley. The wind driven fire quickly spread and crossed the 118 Freeway entering the jurisdictions of Los Angeles City, Ventura County, National Parks Service, and Calif Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. As stated by Steve Heil/Brad Harris ICT 7, Incident Commander. The fire displayed increased rates of spread and extreme fire behavior due to wind domination. Flame lengths of 15-60 feet were observed. This is from the Topanga Fire Narrative of 40 pages of the heads of various agencies. This fire burned 24, 175 acres. In this narrative, they state," fires in this area have a high potential of major incidents because of wind events". In 2003,the Simi fire, which is part of Santa Susana State Park, burned 107, 570 acres.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Jason Freedman
10141 Larwin Ave. #5
Chatsworth, CA 91311**

CDPR Response – Comment Letter 32

32-1 Please see Master Responses 2 & 5

32-2 Please see Master Responses 5 & 6

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park GP/EIR
Comment Letter 32

By e-mail

Attn: Tina Robinson

Another ill conceived idea by those who don't have to live with the consequences.

I am frightened- not of the coyottes, not of the snakes, not of the other animals that are in the mountains by my home- but by the potential of having people in campsites, etc. in the untouched mountains as you are exploring.

We have graffiti on the few buildings at Chatsworth Park now- we have vagrants in the hills, we have kids using drugs in the hills, we have used charcoal in a pile RIGHT BY A SIGN THAT SAYS NO FIRES AND.

YOU PEOPLE THINK THAT BY OPENING UP THIS AREA TO MORE you are improving things

WRONG--WRONG-WRONG

We have fire threats constantly and have been evacuated from our home several times, thankfully being able to return without casualty- You DO NOT have personnel to patrol the areas. And- we must preserve some areas in their natural state-

Being that this area is also between Ventura and LA county- there will be at Chatsworth park are already locked against going into the building-I

NEVER see anyone patrolling the area-

KEEP THE LANDSCAPE NATURAL- WE CAN'T AFFOR ANY MORE FIRES AND VAGRANTS-YOU'R JUST ASKING FOR TROUBLE. THE NEIGHBORHOOD WILL UNITE

AGAINST THIS!

Evelyn Goldman
9727 Baden Avenue
Chatsworth

CDPR Response – Comment Letter 33

33-1 Please see Master Responses 1 & 5

33-2 Please see Master Response 3. CDPR held three public meetings in the community of Chatsworth and several stakeholder meetings with nearby residents to address issues proposed in the General Plan. The State Park and Recreation Commission will hold a final public hearing in or near Chatsworth prior to approving or denying the General Plan.

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park GP/EIR
Comment Letter 33

By e-mail

Dear Ms. Robinson:

33-1 I Marquita Goldson being of an elderly age am strongly opposed to your plans for a state park in my backyard. This area is already poorly policed and Chatsworth Park North and South attract more than it's share of gang activity. With graffiti growing rampant in the area I feel we need to address the mounting issues at hand without introducing another.

33-2 I also want to express my extreme disappointment with the "powers that be" for not taking in to consideration the residents displeasure with this project. This resident happens to have lived in the area for thirty-one years and deserves to be treated as such.

My very best to you and I hope that where you call home your thoughts and opinions do not fall on deaf ears.

Regards,
Marquita Goldson
10521-1 Larwin Ave.
Chatsworth, CA 91311

CDPR Response – Comment Letter 34

- 34-1** Please see Master Response 2
- 34-2** Please see Master Response 5. CDPR understands that people do not always follow directions on signs. However, most park users follow laws and directions, particularly when other park users or rangers are present.
- 34-3** Please see Master Responses 3 & 6. The gates at Jeffery Mark Court were installed and closed at the request of the Rockpointe Homeowners Association. It is not anticipated that they would be reopened at this time.

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park GP/EIR
Comment Letter 34

By e-mail

Tim Robinson:

34-1 I am writing in reference to the development of the Santa Susana Pass State Park. My major concern is fire. There have been two major and two minor fires in the park in the last four years. One occurred on July 4th and I would assume that it was related to the illegal use of fireworks. Another relatively small one was put out by residents [before the openings on Jeffrey Mark were closed]. I called 911 but there was a jurisdictional issue [Los Angeles vs. state vs. Simi Valley] so no one wanted to take the call and I was told to call 911 even though that's what I had done. The two other fires were frightening and one resulted in a voluntary evacuation. This is a traumatic situation. It seems to me that the risk of fire will only increase dramatically with more human traffic. **If there's a fire on state property, who will respond?**

34-2 I attended meetings about the park. I understand that development could possibly improve things. Having rangers would be helpful. But if the state thinks that placing signs directing people to stay on the trail, to not use fire, to not pick flowers, etc. will effectively prevent undesirable and possibly dangerous behavior, the state is monumentally naïve. People drive through red lights, cut off pedestrians, and jaywalk despite posted signs. UCLA football players parking in handicapped spaces, regular people parking in handicapped spaces, cheating on income tax -- the list is endless.

34-3 The closed gates on Jeffrey Mark Court have prevented adults from entering the park to hike and enjoy the natural beauty. Youths are still parking on the street and climbing over the fence to go up on the rocks and other places. There are plenty of beer cans and bottles all around. Tagging on the rocks, also. I purchased my townhouse here mainly because I could walk out my front door and hike.

Please designate and develop entrances that don't create traffic on residential streets. Please respect the beauty and history of the park.
PLEASE OPEN THE GATES ON JEFFREY MARK FOR DAYTIME USE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Laura K. Graff
22540-3 Jeffrey Mark Court
Chatsworth, CA 91311

CDPR Response – Comment Letter 35

35-1 Please see Master Responses 1, 3, & 4

35-2 Please see Master Response 2

35-3 Please see Master Response 1. While CDPR cannot deny that state funding cuts have made it difficult to maintain existing state parks, SSPSHP is an existing state historic park. It was acquired because of its importance to California history and unique location as a link to other natural areas.

35-4 Please see Master Response 6. The commenter does not indicate how they think the EIR is flawed or what items are incorrect, therefore, CDPR cannot respond to the specific issues.

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park GP/EIR
Comment Letter 35

By e-mail

August 24, 2007

Attn: Tina Robinson, Environmental Coordinator, CA Dept of Parks and Recreation

None of your proposed entrances should be used. NONE!!!

- 35-1
- 1) They all severely impact Rockpointe Condominiums, a complex of 743 units that were built in 1970.
 - 2) Traffic directed into all these westerly entrances are via LA City owned streets. It would endanger children attending two schools located west of Topanga Canyon Blvd on Devonshire Street.
 - 3) Existing streets are not adequate for an entrance and widening or realigning them would adversely impact.

3a) Chatsworth Park South is an LA City owned and maintained park which is heavily used.

3b) Rockpointe, is a community of about 2,000 people of which 40% are children and another 40% seniors.

4) The plans include using existing parking (which is already over-used) and this proposal uses part of this parking availability for the entrance.

5) As for the park in general:

5a) Two major fires have razed the proposed park area in the last seven years.

5b) Existing state parks are now in a state of decline because of insufficient funding to need fixing BADLY?

5c) The areas of the park proposal have no special features or interest:

No ocean or ocean views

Chaparral is typical Southern California brush - no forests

No beautiful mountains or lakes or scenery

Maintenance of the park would be prohibitively expensive: fire station, use of water or policing the park

THIS PARK PROPOSAL IS A NO BRAINER; it would simply make jobs for certain employees.

CUT THIS FROM THE CALIFORNIA BUDGET. Leave the land for the coyotes, mountain lions, rabbits and snakes.

THIS EIR IS FLAWED AND MANY ITEMS ARE INCORRECT.

Kenneth J. Gross

22300 James Alan Circle, Unit 3, Chatsworth, CA 91311

Telephone: 818) 882-4309

e-mail: donnapontynen@pacbell.net

cc: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger

- 36-1** Please see Master Response 6. CDPR incorporates the Mission statement into the fabric of developing General Plans and their implementation. It is not anticipated that habitat would be compromised by the development of the facilities proposed in the General Plan, nor would the “No Project” alternative protect the habitat as well as the implementation of the General Plan. The existing condition has multiple trails and volunteer trails that adversely affect the habitat. One of the goals of General Plan implementation would be the elimination of volunteer trails.
- 36-2** Please see Master Response 4. The traffic study addressed the “worst case” scenario which included a greater number of parking spaces. 6 fewer parking spaces are proposed in the General Plan in several secondary access locations than were studied in the traffic study. It is no anticipated that this will substantially increase street parking in these locations since the amount is only 6 parking spaces.

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park GP/EIR

Comment Letter 36

By e-mail:

Ms. Tina Robinson,

I am an Architect and have worked on major projects such as City Walk, Staples Arena, Hollywood and Highland from inception thru completion to name a few.

I have reviewed the Preliminary General Plan and Final Environmental Impact Report for the Santa Susana Pass found on your website http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=24154 and offer the following comments:

General Comments:

Chapter 3:

36-1

- The goals and guidelines set forth are exceptional, however, can they be implemented and are adequate funds available to avoid compromising the habitat in favor of the visitor. In the balance is Habitat vs Man, Goals vs Funding.
- An interim finding of "No Project" is a clear option until there is in fact "A Project", defined by goals and guidelines protecting the habitat which have been prioritized, scheduled, implemented and funded first; followed with human goals and guidelines.
- I submit that the Santa Susana Pass Environment will be severely compromised if the visitors goals and guidelines are implemented first.
- The EIR should clearly recommend that the General Plan implement habitat goals and guidelines first and all visitor goals and guidelines be implemented thereafter. This would require securing the habitat and protecting it prior to the construction of camp sites, toilets, parking spaces, roads, buildings, etc.
- A visitor center, at the "Gateway", abutting the City Park, might be the only visitor goal implemented concurrent with habitat goals, from which visitor discovery, tours, and habitat protection might be staged and centralized.

Specific Comments:

Traffic Study:

36-2

- March 6, 2007: The traffic memorandum, narrative on page 3 is in conflict with Table 2 on page 5. The secondary access points, Larwin and Andora are stated to have only 6 spaces each, however, the table indicates 12.
- Service Levels: I would submit that the driving visitor on Lilac, Larwin and also at the Andora intersection will experience something more severe than a Service Level A resulting from curb side parking and queuing.

The research, findings and documentation is outstanding, however, the implementation is where it all counts.

Fly High, Fall Fast
Soar First, Land Safely

sincerely,

Glenn Hickman AIA
4941 College View Ave.
Los Angeles, Ca. 90041
323.253.5953

CDPR Response – Comment Letter 37

37-1 Please see Master Responses 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5.

37-2 CDPR staff at the Angeles District and Southern Service Center working on the General Plan has made many site visits to SSPSHP. Moreover, park staff has personally met with the Rockpointe Homeowners Association and other residents in Public Meetings and stakeholder meetings.

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park GP/EIR
Comment Letter 37

By e-mail

Ms. Robinson:

Regarding the long range plan for Chatsworth Park in Chatsworth, California:

My husband & I are residents of Rockpointe, a town house development which adjoins the state property which includes Chatsworth Park. Among the reasons we purchased our home was the quiet, green-belted layout and the country-like atmosphere surrounding the development which make up the community. The secluded setting allows residents to walk pets or walk for exercise both day and night. Many residents are senior citizens who have lived here much of their adult lives and value the quiet, safe and secluded setting which exists.

37-1

We firmly believe that the addition of new entrances and campgrounds would severely disrupt the idyllic setting in which we reside. We can only imagine the additional traffic through our development and the increased fire danger, no matter what precautions are taken to prevent such a catastrophe as a fire. We here at Rockpointe are ever mindful of the fire danger with which we live, and we work diligently to make sure brush is cleared constantly. We have in the past three years had two very bad experiences with the fires that swept through the valley. There is also the increased possibility of crime and vandalism as can be caused by the increased numbers of people entering and exiting the park. These people will not only be bona fide campers, but transients and delinquents with no ties to the area or development.

37-2

Before any final decision is made, I feel that if you made a personal visit to our area and saw for yourself what is at stake, you may feel differently. Talk to the residents of Rockpointe and hear for yourself how they feel.

Thank you for your time.

Jo Ann Jacks
Rockpointe Resident, Chatsworth, California
10121-3 Larwin Ave.
Chatsworth, CA 91311

CDPR Response – Comment Letter 38

38-1 Please see Master Responses 1, 3, & 4

38-2 Please see Master Response 5

38-3 Please see Master Responses 1, & 3

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park GP/EIR
Comment Letter 38

By e-mail

Dear Ms. Robinson,

- 38-1 I respectfully and adamantly OPPOSE all forms of the STATE HISTORICAL PARK PLAN.
- 38-2 I am a Rockpointe Homeowner since 1999, and I have personally borne witness to adverse impacts to our quality of life in this homeowners association due to increased numbers of visitors and transients to the park, increased traffic congestion, including park visitors who park on residential streets within the Rockpointe Homeowners Association boundaries.
- 38-2 I have observed increasing vandalism, more trash in and around our parks, and more teens who treat our parks and surrounding properties disrespectfully. Helicopters more and more frequently police our parks and sirens are becoming the weekly norm.
- 38-3 My wife and I discuss our concerns with other homeowners regularly, and we all share the same concerns.
- 38-3 Please listen to us. The park is already open to anybody who wants to come and visit.
- 38-3 We don't need a visitor's center with a parking lot, adding to the traffic congestion we've already got. We don't want further urbanization of this last bastion of an equine, small town way of life.
- 38-3 Enough is enough.
- Respectfully and urgently,
- Kurt S. Lowry
- Janee C. N. Lowry
- Keira C.J. Lowry
- Homeowners, Rockpointe Homeowners Association Complex, Chatsworth, California

CDPR Response – Comment Letter 39

39-1 Please see Master Responses 3 & 5

39-2 Please see Master Response 5. Recently the park was allocated two staff positions. This is in addition to park staff at nearby park units that are available in emergencies.

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park GP/EIR
Comment Letter 39

By e-mail

Dear Ms. Robinson,

Regarding the different proposals on the Santa Susana Park provided for public comment following are our concerns.

39-1 1. As residents of the Rockpointe Condominium Complex, we would request that access points to the park from Jeffrey Mark Court and from Larwin be eliminated. Vandalism, disorderly conduct, and injury threatening behavior has been reported that directly affects our community that has been in place for almost four decades.

39-2 2. Any of the plans - Preferred, Alternative 1 and Alternative 2, should be accompanied with appropriate park ranger and security resources.
Sincerely,

Ruzbe and Kaezad Mehta
Rockpointe Residents.

CDPR Response – Comment Letter 40

40-1 Please see Master Responses 1, 3, & 5.

40-2 Please see Master Response 5

40-3 Please see Master Response 2

40-4 Please see Master Response 6

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park GP/EIR

Comment Letter 40

Tina Robinson
California Department of Parks & Recreation
8885 Rio San Diego Dr. Suite 270
Southern Service Center
San Diego, CA 92108
enviro@parks.ca.gov

August 15, 2007

Dear Ms. Robinson:

40-1

The concern I am expressing herein is in relation to the proposed development of campgrounds, kiosks and restrooms for the Santa Susanna Pass State Historic Park. My home is in this area and my apprehensions and those of my family and neighbors are several fold.

40-2

1. A development such as this is not clearly visible to the surrounding neighborhood as is, for example, a park in the middle of the city. This can create more litter, carelessness and a greater likelihood of clandestine behavior than would otherwise be expected. Without proper maintenance and ongoing monitoring results are often disastrous for home owners in areas such as this.

40-3

2. There would be (and already is to some extent) an attraction for gangs, sexual focused activities and homeless gatherings in fringe areas such as this, particularly when out-buildings and overnight camping in semi-secluded areas is encouraged.
3. Fire danger. I speak from personal experience (2005) when local Chatsworth fires broke out in the area. While I could see the fire coming over the mountain from Simi to Chatsworth right above my home there was an even greater threat from flying ambers the size tennis balls that floated and flew through the air like small birds all over my neighborhood. Unless you have ever seen these uncanny projectiles you would not be able to picture how fearsome they are. Many of us stayed up all night to watch them land, still burning, after they had traveled to get to us from the other side of the local cemetery which was over a mile away. That particular fire area was farther away than the one coming down our mountain but it was larger which allowed the embers to be up drafted high into the air in preparation for their menacing flight over our homes, trees and gardens. We raked newly fallen pine needles by flashlight in fear and could not go to bed. Overnight camping. Please . . . No!!!

40-4

We would hope that preserving the natural aspects of this area is also a priority and that you will join us in our endeavor to work against changes that bring such a threat to all our hard work and dreams.

Thank you for your time and consideration to this request.

Sincerely,

James and Mary Melichar & Family
Cell (818) 282-6627 jimemel@sbcglobal.net 9750 Andora Ave Chatsworth, CA 91311

Cc: Councilman Gregg Smith, councilmember.smith@lacity.org

CDPR Response – Comment Letter 41

41-1 Thank you for your support for the General Plan Preferred Alternative

41-2 Alternatives 1 and 2 have been dropped from further consideration.

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park GP/EIR
Comment Letter 41

By e- mail

From: Robert and Jeanne Michel
7846 Mesa Dr.
Simi Valley, CA 93063
jmichel@valleyalarm.com

To:
Tina Robinson, Environmental Coordinator
California Department of Parks and Recreation
Southern Service Center
8885 Rio San Diego Drive, Suite 270
San Diego, CA 92108
enviro@parks.ca.gov

41-1

Our overall impression of the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park Preliminary General Plan (Draft EIR) is that it is a carefully crafted and well written document with a very good directive for the future of Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. We are pleased to see the thoughtfulness that went into its creation.

The map illustration, figure 5, "Management Zones Preferred Alternative" is a terrific compilation of the input from neighbors, State Park personnel and concerned citizens. We believe it would serve the public and community very well. The placement and type of access (gateway and secondary) are in suitable locations. The number and type of trails should provide an enjoyable experience for visitors. The campground location is in an appropriate location for access and servicing, and not a high fire risk for the neighborhood.

41-2

After having said that, we must note that figure 6, "Alternative Management Zones", Alternative One is unsuitable, the campground is in the middle of the Park, in a very high fire danger area, trails are minimal. Alternative Two, figure 6 is the unchanged horror that caused so much consternation among all the communities on the mountain!! Lilac cannot handle the traffic that would be generated by being a Gateway access and neither could Jeffery Mark Court!! And the campgrounds are in such locations as to raise the risk of wildfires exponentially. If there is anyway of eliminating Alternative Two from consideration, please do so.

Again we restate that the figure 5, "Management Zones Preferred Alternative" is wonderful and we think it would work for all concerned.

Thank you,
Robert and Jeanne Michel

I have read and agree to all that has been stated above by Tim and Stephanie Carvalho. Thank you again, Jeanne Michel

CDPR Response – Comment Letter 42

42-1 Please see Master Response 2

42-2 Please see Master Responses 3 & 5

42-3 Please see Master Response 5

42-4 Please see Master Response 3. CDPR encourages volunteers. Usually the volunteer activities are developed by CDPR in partnership with a local organization such as the Santa Susana Mountain Park Association.

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park GP/EIR
Comment Letter 42

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for all your hard work on the Santa Susana State Park proposals. I have been able to read much of it, but not all of it. Therefore I apologize in advance if I cover something that has already been addressed.

I have been a resident of Rockpointe, at the top of Jeffrey Mark Court, for 8 years. We are in the units closest to the park.

I am looking forward to the trails being decreased and stabilized, and there being more information publicized on the history and ecosystem of the park.

I have several concerns.

42-1 I vote against having camping sites. I believe camping sites in the suburbs is absurd and dangerous for both the campers and the neighborhood. Even without sanctioned fires, having campers increases the chances of unsanctioned fires. If camping is to occur anyway, I urge that the park's ecosystem and trails be stabilized first, as camping will cause more wear and tear. I do, however, support the continuance of a variety of equestrian trails, with consideration being given to minimizing wear and tear. Horses are a Chatsworth tradition.

42-2 I am one resident who opposes the closing of access nearer the top of Jeffrey Mark Court. The distance I have to go to get into the more natural areas of the park has been increased by four times the length of Jeffrey Mark. Law-abiding citizens are kept out while others have dug a hole under the fence. Graffiti still appears on the walls. Apparently an arsonist was still able to get into the park while law enforcement had to tear the fence down to go after him. As much of the mischief seems to occur closer to Lassen, I wonder which entrance the noise-makers and vandals use. If they enter on Lassen, the Jeffrey Mark closure would not be necessary.

It seems the proposal for parking on Jeffrey Mark Court is no longer being pursued. I agree, as it would encroach too much on the park and on our street.

42-3 I understand from the Rockpointe office and reading responses on the website that it is difficult to get any law enforcement action in the park. Could there be some sort of memorandum of agreement to allow LAPD or county sheriffs to serve the area since it does residents of LA?

42-4 I was glad to read about the proposal for volunteers. I would be glad to volunteer. Please allow for evening and weekend meetings! I believe a concentrated effort should be made to publicize volunteer opportunities to Jeffrey Mark Court and other nearby residents as our proximity can be particularly useful.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Linda B. Nelson
22560 Jeffrey Mark Court
Chatsworth, CA

CDPR Response – Comment Letter 43

- 43-1** Thank you for your support of the SSPSHP General Plan. CDPR welcomes all input as part of the public review process. The approval or denial of the General Plan will be made by the State Park and Recreation Commission at the February 2008 Public Hearing after careful review of the General Plan and all public input.
- 43-2** CDPR agrees that it would be preferable to provide parking within the Park where the topography permits.
- 43-3** CDPR agrees that having law-abiding park users within the Park overnight is likely to discourage unauthorized campers where visible. However, since the campground is proposed in a relatively isolated location at the north end of the Park, it would not have a substantial affect on discouraging unauthorized campers. CDPR hopes that implementation of the General Plan, increased park staff, and volunteer associations will more effectively discourage unauthorized camping within SSPSHP.
- 43-4** Please see Master Response 5. CDPR agrees that the more the Park is in the public eye, the more likely it will become less suitable for unsuitable behavior.
- 43-5** CDPR agrees that restrooms are necessary for health & safety.
- 43-6** Thank you for your support.

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park GP/EIR
Comment Letter 43

By e-mail

Tina Robinson, Environmental Coordinator
California Department of Parks and Recreation
Southern Service Center
8885 Rio San Diego Drive, Suite 270
San Diego, CA 92108
enviro@parks.ca.gov
(619) 220-5300
(619) 220-5400 (fax)

- 43-1 As a resident of the Chatsworth, California, neighborhood adjacent to the new Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park I have been the recipient of several form letters and petitions distributed by a handful of my neighbors that are opposed to the proposed improvements in the SSPSHP. I am writing in support of the improvements and to make certain that your committee is aware that most of the opposition to those improvements is the result of a fear campaign being conducted by just a few people in the neighborhood.
- The Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park is a beautiful and unique area, and anything that makes it more accessible to the 34 million residents of California who are stakeholders in the state park system should take priority over the misguided fears of a few people.
- My home is about 100 yards from the designated secondary park entrance on Andora. I am very familiar with the concerns of my neighbors and feel that they are entirely mistaken about the effects that park improvements will have on the area. I believe that the improvements will have beneficial effects that are the exact opposite of their fears. I will address them individually below.
- 43-2 **Parking:**
There is a concern that the plan will result in an increase in street parking around the park. It is a mystery to me how the addition of 136 more parking spaces can be thought to increase the number of cars that park on the street. At the Andora access near my house, six new parking spaces are proposed. I have never seen more than one or two cars parked there on the street for park access at any one time. With the implementation of the plan, I fully expect that number to drop to zero, as the cars will begin parking in the new spaces.
- 43-3 **Campsites:**
There is a fear that the nine new campsite will attract vagrants to the park. In the nine years I have lived near and hiked in the park, I have seen plenty of vagrants with clandestine unauthorized campsites under the trees. The problem is minimal, but there is no denying that the practice does occur. I can't think of anything that would discourage the occasional illicit camper more than a steady flow of authorized campers spending the night in the park on a regular basis.

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Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park GP/EIR
Comment Letter 43

43-4 Illegal and Undesirable behavior:
The area is rural and isolated. Police oversight is negligible. People have always used the area for activities that they want perform outside of the public eye. There is a fear that the increased accessibility will increase this type of activity. That fear is completely unfounded. The more people who use the park, the more it will be in the public eye and the less suitable it will be for unscrupulous behavior.

43-5 Rest-rooms:
I have not figured out what exactly my neighbors' opposition to the rest-rooms is, but it is definitely a hot button issue. What I do know is that people are biological creatures that have certain needs that are not really optional. I truly wonder where my neighbors are hoping the local hikers are going to vacate themselves if it isn't in a rest-room.

43-6 I have read the general plan and believe that it is very well thought out. If it is implemented as designed, not only will it greatly enhance a truly wonderful part of our state, but it will help alleviate some of the small social problems that we have a result of living so close to an open space.

Sincerely,

Karl Partch
818-885-1706
9824 Baden Avenue
Chatsworth, CA 91306

CDPR Response – Comment Letter 44

44-1 Please see Master Responses 2, 3, 4, & 5

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park GP/EIR
Comment Letter 44

By e-mail:

44-1

Dear Tina Robinson,

Hopefully the plan for the Santa Susana Pass

State Historical Park will have a minimal

impact on those of us who reside in Rockpointe.

As a result of improvements planning to be made

I am concerned that Fire, Congestion and Vandalism
may occur.

My original thinking about this project was that
the park should be left just the way it is.

However I realize that the project will go forward.

Therefore I kindly request that you proceed in
such a manner that you eliminate or reduce the
possibility of Fire, Congestion and Vandalism.

Also, Please, no parking area or entrance on
Jeffrey Mark Court.

Thank you for all your hard work.

Sincerely,

Ted Reiner

22421-3 Jeffrey Mark Court

Chatsworth, Ca 91311

CDPR Response – Comment Letter 45

45-1 Please see Master Response 2

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park GP/EIR
Comment Letter 45

By e-mail,

Dear Ms Robinson:

45-1 | Please keep the park "green" by NOT having camp
grounds. This is a park surrounded by homes.
I beg of you not to approve camping.

Sincerely,
Joana J. Simmons

CDPR Response – Comment Letter 46

- 46-1** Please see Master Response 6. SSPSHP is a State Historic Park and protecting the Park's cultural resources is one of the primary considerations in the General Plan. Only limited development is proposed, primarily in previously disturbed areas.

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park GP/EIR
Comment Letter 46

By e-mail:

To whom it may concern:

46-1

I have been a resident of Chatsworth all my life and I am concerned and out of my mind at the thought of the development proposed for Chatsworth Park. There is too much building going on now that has removed horse property and land that Chatsworth is about. Growing up here was like living in a small town, dirt roads, orchards, fields, farms, etc... Now there are houses being built on any empty lot and the charm is going away quickly. I have never thought of moving out of Chatsworth or California, but if we keep going at this rate how can I not. The people running this state have no respect for its history. The mountains of Chatsworth are full of wonderful stories - try and leave one piece of undeveloped land alone.

Thank you,
Stacey Tarantino

CDPR Response – Comment Letter 47

47-1 Please see Master Responses 1 & 6

47-2 Please see Master Responses 5 & 7

47-3 Please see Master Responses 1 & 5

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park GP/EIR
Comment Letter 47

By e-mail:

Ms. Tina Robinson,

47-1

Please forgive my tardiness with this email, I just returned from being out of town. To get a bit acquainted, I am a single mom with a 13 year old boy. I have lived in Chatsworth most of my 42 years. As a child I rode my pony and later my horse all though the Chatsworth Mountains and would try to imagine what it would be like to come through those mountains by stage coach and imagine what the area would look like the Indians and such. All of that would be destroyed

When I caught wind of the plan to change the park and then later I attended the larger meeting at Chatsworth Park South in the auditorium. The entire idea just made me ill and extremely angry with the images of what they want to do and how it would effect those of us around the park. Being a resident of Rockpoint for 16 years at the top of Jeffrey Mark Ct, I have seen and experienced a lot!!

47-2

We still have a lot of traffic with illegal tendencies, homeless people (I caught a homeless person using my water once), white supremacy activities on the rocks on the park side, out my front door they put up a no trespassing sign due to this development it will be worse and exposing our children to it as well as a rise in crime because how remote our townhomes are. This whole park development idea is dangerous to us and our children, opening them up to all sorts of unwanted rife raff, on top of all this what about the pollution that will environmentally change our area and the park.

47-3

Of course you all state "Well we have the Police & Forestry Department " Yes we have the Police & Forestry Department, but not enough man power or funds and every one of you know this yet everyone pushes forward. No one is thinking of us or the future, just the revenue it will bring and to what extent is it really worth it. You don't have to develop the park to enjoy it. Leaving it the way God intended is what it important.

Thank you for your time in listening to my heart.

Sincerely,

Kathy Taylor
22550 - 1 Jeffrey Mark Ct
Chatsworth CA 91311

CDPR Response – Comment Letter 48

48-1 Thank for your support for the General Plan and the Park. CDPR hopes to work with interested groups to establish volunteer programs at SSPSHP.

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park GP/EIR
Comment Letter 48

By e-mail

Tina Robinson, Environmental Coordinator,
California Department of Parks and Recreation
Southern Service Center
8885 Rio San Diego Drive, Suite 270
San Diego, CA 92108

Dear Tina Robinson:

I have personally been working toward a State Historic Park since shortly after I helped organize the Chatsworth Historical Society in 1963.

As I learned more about the history of Chatsworth, the development of the northwest San Fernando Valley and the Santa Susana Pass, I realized that although the area is basically small for a state park, it is a microcosm of our California heritage. This is evidenced by the detail encompassed by the General Plan/Draft EIR. I think the accuracy of the facts and the scope of the research is outstanding.

I think the General Plan is impressive and that it is a workable plan for an area that will become one of the most utilized parks in the system.

Because of the many educational institutions, libraries, youth, community and cultural groups in the vicinity there should be an abundance of volunteers to help interpret the park's resources.

Virginia Watson,
10443 De Soto Ave.,
Chatsworth, CA 91311

48-1

CDPR Response – Comment Letter 49

49-1 Please see Master Responses 1, 2, & 5

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park GP/EIR
Comment Letter 49

By e-mail:

Dear Ms. Robinson,

As a property owner that would be impacted by opening this park to camping, I must add my negative feelings about this move by your department.

I do not know if you or any member of your committee has visited this proposed camping area, but if you did, you are aware of the potential fire danger, it is extreme. Also I am sure you were made aware of the homeless that are living among the rocks and trees in various parts of this park property. So far there has not been too much trouble, but with campers throughout the area day and night, it can be a problem. You can foresee that there is a mixture of ideas, and they can clash. Those of us living very close to this southern area of the park have to put up with thoughtless neighbors who put on raves and the police are involved. And you expect "hosts" of this park to handle alot of these similar problems? Large groups will find this convenient park an open invitation for many kinds of behavior. Such an open park will invite more than just families when you offer more of the conveniences of modern life.

I assure you that I am not against state parks for camping, I am a native Californian and our family use state and federal parks often, and one thing that has always been enforced, leave the land as you find it for others to enjoy. This type of thinking is disappearing. I am sure you saw the rocks in the park that have been vandalized by spray painting, even up on the tops of the surrounding hills. We must live with this ugliness each day, and it will not get any better making better trails for these ungrateful people to move around with ease to spread their dislike for the rest of us.

I hope that you and your committee will consider the many, many people of the neighborhoods surrounding this now enjoyable park, and come to the conclusion that it is working now, so don't try to fix it. People still hike and picnic, enjoy the open spaces and feel safe in the daylight hours the park is open. Please don't change it. Thank you for reading this and your consideration.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth (Bette) Butler
22747 Dale Ct.
Chatsworth

49-1

CDPR Response – Comment Letter 50

50-1 Thank you for your support (except for the campground).

50-2 Please see Master Response 2

50-3 Please see Master Responses 1. Specific facility proposals would not proceed until funding is available.

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park GP/EIR
Comment Letter 50

By e-mail:

Tina Robinson
Environmental Coordinator

50-1

I am not opposed to improved development of the Santa Susana State Historical Park.

It is indeed a beautiful area to be preserved for the enjoyment of the public. I would love to see a Visitors Center, picnic tables, trash receptacles, marked trails, restrooms, adequate parking, along with Park Service Staff.

50-2

I am opposed to allowing public tent camping and campfires. It is just too risky and will increase the chance of fire opportunities. I believe campfire days are near extinction

in many of our forested areas due to the carelessness of people.

Look what happened in Lake Tahoe in late June.

Tenting should be confined to more remote areas, whether in coastal or inland areas of the state, not nearby residential neighborhoods.

50-3

Finally, I understand the need for more park areas, however, due to the fact our State didn't even pass the budget yet, and we have huge economic problems in our state, are we correct to spend more money developing this area at this time>

Sincerely,
Laraine Miller
9656 Geyser Ave.
Northridge, CA 91324

CDPR Response – Comment Letter 51

51-1 Please see Master Response 2

51-2 Please see Master Response 5

51-3 Please see Master Responses 2 & 7

51-4 Please see Master Responses 1 & 3

51-5 Alternatives 1 & 2 are no longer under consideration

51-6 Please see Master Responses 1, 2, 3, 5 & 7

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park GP/EIR
Comment Letter 51

By e-mail:

Gentlemen:

I have lived right across the street from the State Park, on Jeffrey Mark Ct, for 6 years, and have experienced several fires, which nearly caused the residents on my street to be forced to evacuate. I have had a front row seat in observing the kids who sit up on the rocks, get loaded on drugs or alcohol, and yell and scream, late into the night. "Partying", they call it. We have also had to deal with skinheads, many of whom are adults. Last weekend, they beat up some old, homeless man and left him on the ground. I have been a Los Angeles County Deputy Probation Officer for the last 45 years, and I can testify to you, that the juveniles we deal with have become increasingly worse over the years. Every time we think that they cannot get any worse---they do. It is the drugs and the gangs!

I am adamantly opposed to a park, so close to our residential area for the following reasons:

1. FIRE DANGER:

- We have constant winds here, and from about 3:PM on, very heavy gales--and that is just in summer. In winter, it gets much worse. How can you possibly guarantee that your cement lined fire pits will *always* prevent ashes from flying out of their containers and starting serious fires?

How can you constantly supervise campers in and around tents, in order to prevent them from using their own portable barbecues or starting other fires? Can you post a park ranger, permanently, wherever fire is apt to be used?

If you are being honest, I imagine that you would have to answer that you cannot possibly make such a guarantee, and that you will *not* have a big enough budget to post a ranger full time, wherever fire could be used.

Does the State Park system carry enough insurance to deal with citizens who will most certainly file law suits, if burning embers and ashes hit our roofs, and burn down our homes? Can you even imagine your liability issues, if you even just consider our 739 Rockpointe condos, alone? And, how about those million dollar homes in the Roy Rogers estates, where you plan to put an entrance on Andora Road. They *have* had to evacuate twice in the last two years because of fire. I hear that there are a few attorneys living on Andora, and you certainly know that the State is visualized as "deep pockets."

Oakwood Cemetary is undoubtedly a multi-million dollar property, with expensive plantings and structures. At least, if it burns, most of the residents there are already dead!

I think you get the idea. We are scared stiff of fire!

2. CRIME:

Do you know that the LAPD will not put foot on the State Park Property, unless it is a deadly serious situation involving public safety..i.e..murder...arson...serious felonys? And just exactly where can we find a park ranger at 2:am, for for that matter, any time after the park closes for the evening? The vandalism, partying, and etc. are all

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park GP/EIR
Comment Letter 51

51-2
(cont'd)

misdemeanors, and that calls for a citizen's arrest, at least initially. Personally, I am not willing to try to arrest and detain some loaded kid, who may be armed, and then wait for the police to come much later, if they come at all. And just where is the Park Ranger when you need him? Probably no where to be found. And how about this "Caretaker"--- doesn't he get to sleep at night?

And how do you suggest that we handle the young low-life adults and vagrants who can easily hop over even a locked gate or chain link fence, and take up residence on our condo lawns? Will you be able to tolerate them on the camp grounds? Some of these fine fellows have a lot of fun with paint ball guns, and some of them have real ones. How do you plan to determine if a given individual is just Psychotic, a psychopath or an arsonist? How do you plan to handle it if and when homeless individuals or families set up encampments, or tin shacks in the Park? Will you just run them off--down the hill to our neighborhood?

3. THE CAMP GROUNDS:

Here is a really *big issue*:

51-3

The Spahn Ranch where you plan to put the camp grounds has wonderful memories for me of the Charlie Manson and Family era. The Family used those caves like motel rooms. You might want to take a tour thru the caves, and you just might find the bones of dead bodies. If you do, you must be sure to inform the police. I understand that they can eventually identify people by their bones.

Did you know that the Spahn Ranch is much too close for comfort to the Rocketdyne-Boeing Santa Susanna Field Lab, where they had the biggest Nuclear Meltdown in US history? If you do not, you have not been reading the newspaper headlines and articles. You are perhaps 2 miles or less from the Field Lab up on Woolsey Canyon, as the crow flies. The Spahn Ranch is even closer to Dayton Canyon and Runkle Canyon where they have found Strontium 90, and now heavy levels of arsenic in the Runkle Canyon Water. How about your water?

I am so very glad that you are planning to test the soil before you do any construction..thank you, thank you, thank you! However, just a hand-held gieger couter won't cut it...deep testing by a qualified lab is the only acceptable way to go. We do not want any soild loosend and blowing down upon our heads, from any construction...anywhere, until we can review the radiation and chemical reports with you, and with an expert in this science.

We also want to find out if water flows down from the Boeing Field Lab on to the Spahn Ranch, or other parts of the Park, where people will spend time. We do not want any little kids playing in or eating the mud, as little kids are apt to do. Oh yes, there is Plutonium in the Dayton Canyon soil.

And, speaking the camp grounds --figuring 8 people per camp sites sounds a little crowded --but this is a minor point. More major might be the rattle snakes, coyotes and mountain lions which inhabit the place, especially at night. They might be worse than Charlie Manson!

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park GP/EIR
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4. THE PARKING LOT ON JEFFREY MARK CT:

51-4 Just how would you like to have your pristine view of the mountains spoiled by a parking lot? Your property values? Most of us here have almost our entire worth tied up in the value of these condos. What a totally miserable plan to park six cars...or is it 12? And what do you suggest we do about the overflow parking on our street...Jeffrey Mark Ct. Any young person, loaded or otherwise, can easily hop over the chain link fence...that is *after* parking on the street.

And for that matter, how about the over flow down in the City Park. Will people park on Devonshire, or around the corner on Larwin. Good luck! The residents on those streets park their second and third cars out in front. Take a look. It is usually very parked up...with few spaces, even during working hours...and after work...forget it. And the Park...are you planning to add more parking spaces. The park has a constantly busy sports program and etc. They use up most of their spaces, themselves.

51-5 My final concern is: it you are favoring the Preferred Plan, why are you still talking about the two alternate plans in your EIR? Those two plans make me uneasy---a Park entrance on Jeffrey Mark...No thank you!

51-6 In conclusion, I appreciate the fact that you have done a great deal of work on this EIR, and I almost feel regretful to summarize as follows: Your plan for law enforcement is non-existent...your plan to deal with fire is almost totally inadequate...your ability to provide Rangers to deal with *anything bad* at night is more than questionable, and your need to test the soil properly for radioactive and carcinogenic substances is **urgent**

I do understand that our city dwellers need parks, but they are not currently in short supply. I do believe that the park planners are people of good intentions and good will. But I also believe that the planners do not have to *live here* . *We Do*. If you want to improve the horse.hiking and biking trails...fine...*after* you have tested the soil. But your extended park and building plans...a *disaster waiting to to happen!* . Please do not impose this park on our residential neighborhoods. In Rockpointe, alone, we have 600 signatures wanting this plan to be abandoned. **Please listen**

Thank you,

Margery Brown, Chairman

Citizens Concerned about the Santa Susanna State Park Project.

22500-8 Jeffrey Mark Ct.,
Chatsworth, CA 91399

CDPR Response – Comment Letter 52

52-1 Please see Master Responses 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park GP/EIR
Comment Letter 52

August 16, 2007

Dear Ms. Tina Robinson, Environmental Coordinator

52--1

In response to the construction plans adjacent to Jeffrey Mark Court/Larwin Street in the Rockpointe community, I know that these plans would adversely impact my community for the following reasons:

- a. our currently rural community would be overrun by traffic
- b. pollution from the increased traffic would be detrimental not only to the humans living here, but also to the equestrian community
- c. entrances to the park would double as entrances to our private community reducing the property values, air quality, and security of our homes, which would result in crime, littering, graffiti, and overcrowding.

Anyone living here, would want to respect the rural community atmosphere to remain as such. There are very few areas such as ours left in the San Fernando Valley. It is essential that the open spaces are preserved and the equestrian community be protected.

There are other vast areas that could accommodate the proposed additions of parking, restrooms, visitor/tourist center/RV campgrounds farther along the Santa Susana Pass which are not as populated and would not impact our unique country-like residential /equestrian communities.

What is at stake is a mutually respected relationship between the needs of the California Department of Parks and we the surrounding property owners. I strongly oppose any attempt to ruin our workable current lifestyle, which was our initial motive for our moving here and settling into this area. Since other possibilities do exist to accomplish your needs without endangering our neighborhoods, I encourage you to consider those.

Sincerely,

Zena David

A concerned Rockpointe homeowner and resident

CDPR Response – Comment Letter 53

- 53-1** Thank you for your support. Recently the park was allocated two staff positions. This is in addition to park staff at nearby park units that are available in emergencies. New facilities would not be constructed until funding was available.

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park GP/EIR
Comment Letter 53

By e-mail:

Regarding Santa Susana park.

53-1 I have lived in the area for over 30 years. My family and I have witnessed many fires. This area is very unique because of great historic value. The Indians helped build the San Fernando Mission, the stage coach pass, the old west, the movie locations....and many other uses. If the government can preserve this & use the history to show the next generation what we once were....I think the park would be a great asset to the public. Does the park service have enough money to do this....along with putting in a full time ranger station to monitor fires & any illegal use.

I'm for it.

Matt Cope
8846 Azul Dr.
West Hills, Ca 91304

CDPR Response – Comment Letter 54

54-1 Please see Master Responses 1 & 2

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park GP/EIR
Comment Letter 54

By e-mail:

54-1

I am very concerned about a recent proposal from the Ca Dept. of Parks and Rec regarding Santa Susana State historical park in Chatsworth CA. They want to put a campground in our high fire prone area (end of Andora Ave. in Chatsworth, Lassen and Valley Circle).

Are they taking crazy pills? First of all, the local parks dept. does not even have enough money to keep the current local campground "Sagebrush" open. They sporadically open it to groups but do not have it open to the public for lack of funding and man power to maintain the campground. It has been that way for as long as I can remember it being a campground.

We are supposed to look the other way when we know they will build outbuildings etc. and not have the money to maintain them? It will become a camp for every "partying teen" in the valley (already a problem but now it will be official!), not to mention a few other problems that we currently have to deal with. It is NOT a good idea. Please formally take this e mail as my official vote for "NO" to the campground.

Thank you,

Lara Candice Tate
P.O. Box 3728
Chatsworth CA 91313-3728
Andora Resident

CDPR Response – Comment Letter 55

55-1 Please see Master Responses 2 & 5

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park GP/EIR
Comment Letter 55

By e-mail:

55-1

I have been a Chatsworth resident for 24 years, and do not want to see camping in this area. I am not opposed to some development, such as parking, more hiking trails, and picnic areas. The camping brings in many concerns.

Over the years we have been awakened many times with the police helicopter circling the park in the middle of the night. The park is closed at night, which is a good thing, and should continue. Of course there are those who go in anyway, and they are the ones who bring out the police in the middle of the night. There is just no good reason to have camping in the city. It will bring all the transients who live in their vehicles, and the park will then be open all night, which will bring more problems. We now have even more graffiti on the beautiful rocks, and it is very sad indeed.

We treasure the rural feeling of our area, and the rocks, old oaks, the stage coach trail; all should be available for people to share for the day. We suffer so many fires as it is, and this is adding the potential for so many more. When we have the Santa Anna winds, the fire pits would be worthless to contain the fires. Just having them there would encourage campers to use them, even with signs saying "HIGH FIRE RISK".

This community should have received letters from your department regarding this matter long ago, so that the whole community is aware of what is being considered. The problem in so many of these issues is that the decisions are made before the majority of the community has any information concerning the community in which they live. Thank goodness for the Daily News article, but even that does not reach everyone. I do hope you will be sending out information to the community before a decision is made.

Jim and Judy White
9744 Nevada Ave
Chatsworth, Ca. 91311

CDPR Response – Comment Letter 56

56-1 Please see Master Responses 2 & 5

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park GP/EIR
Comment Letter 56

By e-mail:

Please count me in as a Chatsworth resident who is outraged such a proposal is even up for vote. Sometimes I think our politicians are out to ruin the very people they are supposed to represent. And when something like this happens, I also think an investigation should be initiated to see who's pockets are being lined. With increased gang activity moving to the north valley, not to mention our high risk for fires, why anybody would think creating camp grounds etc. in these two places is mind bogeling.

56-1

I go to Chatsworth park regularly with my dog to exercise him. I meet up with a few other dog people there to do the same. I appreciate having these spaces that are not crowded, feel safe, are not littered or graffitied and are for the surrounding community. And I'm an adult. What about people with younger kids - they are most at risk for the pedophiles and vagrants and gang members that will definitely flock to this area.

As it stands now, people are welcome to hike and picnic and enjoy the beauty and natural settings and all it offers. I also think this endangers hikers in terms of the animals it will draw to the area if campgrounds are allowed to be set up. And just the people that might congregate to this area can be a threat to good people just out to enjoy nature.

Please, please help to stop this. If there is a petition you can send me, I will happily go door to door in my neighborhood. Thank you. Randi Weiner

CDPR Response – Comment Letter 57

57-1 Thank you for your support. Please also see Response 43-3.

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park GP/EIR
Comment Letter 57

By e-mail:

57-1

I recently read the Daily News article (Tuesday, August 14, 2007) regarding development at the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. I am in favor of the expansion of the facility. A visitors Center, campground, parking, picnic sites and restrooms would be great. Staffers on site and a park host on the property living there full time as a caretaker would be wonderful.

A caregiver on the facility would slow down vandals and gang activities.

The area has been a charming break from all the houses, apartments and crowding that is occurring in our city. Let's keep it that way.

I hope you can bring this to life. Please keep me posted.

Annabelle Whettam

12358 Sylvan Street

North Hollywood, CA 91606

CDPR Response – Comment Letter 58

58-1 Thank you for your support (except for camping). Please see Master Response 2, 3 & 6. The Park was surveyed for the Resources Inventory for archaeological resources. Additional surveys were made after the most recent fire but more surveys will be conducted in the future as needed. It is the intention of CDPR to protect the cultural resources at SSPSHP.

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park GP/EIR
Comment Letter 58

By e-mail:

58-1

Hello, My name is Tom Walsh. I would like to support the idea for a state park in the hills by Chatsworth Park. I am an avid bird watcher and equestrian, and I am in those hills all the time. Maybe the indian paintings and wagon tracks will be protected from futher wear and abuse? Also the area could use a good archeology survey? As to the reaction of the condo owners, that is no suprise, they have all always made it hard for people to use the park, I do agree with one thing though, it should be restricted to daylight hours and no camping, just to close to residents.

Thank you,

Tom Walsh 19148 Hart St. Reseda Ca.

CDPR Response – Comment Letter 59

59-1 Please see Master Response 2. SSPSHP is a small park and will not be a significant source of revenue, even if fully developed.

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park GP/EIR
Comment Letter 59

By e-mail:

Dear Ms. Robinson,

Unfortunately I was unaware of the August 20th deadline to receive comments regarding the proposal to use the Santa Susanna Pass Historic Park Andora entrance to become a parking lot or worse a campsite. I am writing today, because the images I saw all week with this horrendous fires all around us reminded of our personal nightmare from the fire of 2005, when it came right to our fence, and we almost lost our house. This is what we could be exposed on a daily basis if the Andora Park Entrance becomes developed, because it is right at our doorsteps, and people do not follow fire regulations. Also, we would face more traffic, and crime. We will live in constant fear of when the next fire will happen next to our house. The problem here is not only the dry brush, but intense winds that rip through this passage. The last Santa Ana winds were so strong that on Sunday morning they ripped off our fireplace, and from then until they stopped the winds also ripped many parts of the roof - and this is only wind without fire!

We sympathize with your need to find sources of revenue for your park, but the answer is not at our door steps, we will have so much too loose!

Sincerely,

Walter A. Mojica, MD, MPH and family

Consultant

Medical Technology Assessment & Guidelines

Kaiser Permanente Southern California

393 E. Walnut St., 6th Floor, Pasadena, CA 91188

59-1